

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging flat objects (10) with a packaging material (1) comprising a first and a second surface and being supplied as a quasi-endless web, the method comprising the steps of:
forming a string of bags (1') from the packaging material (1) and conveying the string of bags in a conveying direction (F),
charging the bags (1') with the objects (10) to be packaged,
severing the bags from the string of bags, and
sealing the bags,
wherein the step of forming comprises gripping the packaging material (1) from the first surface at gripping points spaced from each other by a distance and then reducing the distance between the gripping points and making the packaging material (1) to buckle in a same direction between all gripping points.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the direction in which the packaging material (1) is made to buckle between the gripping points is oriented away from the second surface.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein, on forming the string of bags, ~~the~~ a width of the packaging material (1) is oriented essentially horizontal, the first surface ~~facing~~ faces upwards, and wherein the packaging material (1) is made to buckle downwards between the gripping points, and wherein the bags (1') are charged with objects from above.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein, after charging, the string of bags (1') ~~of the string~~ are transferred to sealing means

- (16), and are then the string of bags are severed to separate individual bags from the string of bags (1') and then the individual bags are sealed.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to charging with an object, the bags (1') of the string of bags are partly severed from each other and sealed along lateral sides ~~prior to being charged~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, comprising the further step of applying wherein a bonding agent ~~is applied~~ to the packaging material (1) prior to sealing the lateral bag sides.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of buffering wherein the bags (1') of the string of bags are buffered ~~prior to charging and/or sealing being charged and/or sealed~~.
8. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging flat objects (10) with a packaging material (1) comprising a first and a second surface and being supplied as a quasi-endless web, said which device comprising comprises
a means for supplying the packaging material (1),
a conveying system (3) for forming a string of bags (1') from the packaging material (1) and for conveying the string of bags,
~~a charging means~~ for charging the bags (1') with objects (10) to be packaged,
~~a severing means~~ (20) for severing the bags (1') from the string of bags,
and
~~a sealing means~~ for sealing the bags (1'),
wherein the conveyor system (3) comprises gripping elements (6) that are adapted to be equipped for being conveyed at variable distances from each other and to grip for gripping the packaging material (1) from its first surface, said conveyor system further comprising and further comprises a first control means for activating the gripping elements and a second control means, arranged downstream of the first control means, for reducing the space distances between the gripping elements (6).

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein the supply means is adapted to supply ~~equipped for supplying~~ the packaging material (1) with an essentially horizontal width, and wherein the gripping elements (6) are arranged for gripping the packaging material (1) from above so that the packaging material (1) buckles downwards by gravity between the gripping elements (6).
10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, and further comprising additional supporting elements (7) that are synchronously ~~being driven synchronously~~ with the gripping elements (6) and ~~being~~ equipped for acting on the packaging material (1) from its second surface to drive the packaging material ~~driving it into~~ the gripping elements (6).
11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claims 8, wherein the gripping elements (6) are arranged on gripper bars (5), wherein ends of the gripper bars (5) are driven and guided ~~sliding or rolling in~~ guide rails (4) running alongside the packaging material (1).
12. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein the sealing means comprises a plurality of sealing elements (16), said sealing elements being adapted for insertion ~~equipped for being inserted~~ between the bags (1') conveyed by the gripping elements (6), and for ~~being closed~~ closing around the bags (1').
13. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 12, wherein the sealing means further comprises a plurality of holding elements (15), said holding elements being adapted for ~~equipped for~~ holding the bags (1') at a side opposite the side gripped by the gripping elements (6).
14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the sealing elements (16) and ~~possibly the~~ holding elements (15) are parts ~~part~~ of a drum-like installation (17).

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, ~~and~~ further comprising a pre-severing means (20') for partly severing the packaging material (1) and a pre-sealing means (33) for sealing lateral sides of the bags (1'), said pre-severing means being arranged upstream of the severing means (20) and said a pre-sealing means (33) for sealing lateral sides of the bags (1') is being arranged upstream of the sealing means.
16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 15, ~~and~~ further comprising ~~a~~ means (31) for applying a bonding agent to the packaging material.
17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 15, ~~and~~ further comprising a pre-conveyor system (3'), said pre-conveyor system being arranged upstream of the conveyor system (3) and, ~~the pre-conveyor system (3')~~ comprising pre-gripping elements (6') acting on the packaging material (1) from the same surface as the gripping elements (6) and adapted to being equipped and controlled for gripping grip the packaging material at the gripping points and pass the gripping points on to the gripping elements (6).